



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

27 JULY 2026

ARRC WELCOMES CRAIG BARKER AS NEW CHAIR

The Australian Resource Recovery Conference (ARRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Craig Barker as the new Chair of the Board. Craig assumes the role alongside his position as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Veolia Australia and New Zealand to further ARRC's leadership within the industry.

With more than 17 years' experience in the resource recovery industry, Mr Barker is widely recognised as one of Australia's leading environmental and infrastructure executives. His appointment as CEO and Managing Director of Veolia Australia and New Zealand earlier this year reflected his longstanding leadership in advancing recycling, resource recovery and circular economy outcomes across the region.

ARRC CEO Haydee Forster welcomed Mr Barker to the role, saying it begins an exciting chapter for the industry.

"Craig brings an exceptional depth of industry knowledge, strategic leadership and a genuine passion for advancing Australia's resource recovery sector," Forster said.

"We are delighted to welcome him as Chair and look forward to working alongside him as we continue to grow ARRC as the industry's leading forum for innovation, collaboration and practical solutions."

Mr Barker said he was honoured to take on the role and contribute to the continued success of ARRC.

"ARRC plays an important role in bringing together leaders from across government, industry and research to tackle the opportunities and challenges facing our sector," Barker said.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Board and the ARRC team to continue building a conference that drives meaningful conversations and supports the future of resource recovery in Australia."

ARRC thanks outgoing Chair, Richard Kirkman for his significant contribution and his commitment to strengthening the conference and the industry over recent years and looks forward to Craig Barker's leadership as the organisation continues to evolve and support Australia's circular economy ambitions.

//ends.

Media enquiries:

Jen Fleming (0481 752 729)